

Informalities

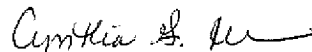
The Examiner objected to various grammatical errors in claim 7. Applicants thank the Examiner for his review and submit that the claim has been appropriately corrected.

§102 (b) Rejections

The Examiner rejected claim 7 as being anticipated by Bitner and Rowold (Bitner). Bitner describes an electropheris set up. Claims 7 and 8 were also rejected as being anticipated by Skold. Claim 7, as amended, requires that the binding species be selected from the group consisting of biotin, avidin, streptavidin, an antigen, an antibody, a hapten, a receptor and an oligonucleotide and requires that the porous substrate on its inner surface include a scavenger coating. Neither Bitner nor Skold discloses or suggests a reagent wherein the binding species is selected from the group consisting of biotin, avidin, streptavidin, an antigen, an antibody, a hapten, a receptor and an oligonucleotide and a porous substrate on its inner surface include a scavenger coating that binds dissociated binding species but not undissociated binding species.

Applicants submit that the amendments and remarks overcome the Examiner's rejections. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned if the Examiner has any matter that she would like to address.

Respectfully submitted,



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